

cerned and less liable to cause friction between the Indians and the whites. I earnestly hope that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, for the reason that the Little Colorado could be made a natural dividing line, distinct and well defined, and would extend the grazing territory of the Navajoes to a very considerable extent without seriously encroaching upon the interests of white settlers who have their property in that neighborhood.

I think great care should be exercised in questions of this nature, because of possible serious friction which may occur if the interests of all concerned are not carefully protected. I am informed that Colonel McLaughlin, an inspector in the Indian service, has filed a report with you on the subject.

Yours, very respectfully,

N. O. MURPHY, *Governor.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 24, 1899.

SIR: On the 14th of March last Inspector James McLaughlin was instructed by the Department to proceed to the Navajo Agency and make an examination of the country lying west of the Moqui Reservation, and report to the Department all necessary information to consider the recommendations which had previously been made by himself and Maj. Constant Williams, the then acting Indian agent of the Navajo Agency, to enlarge the Navajo Reservation by extending the lines from a point on the west line of the Moqui Reservation to the southeast corner of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve; thence north to the northeast corner of said reserve; thence west to the Colorado River; thence up that stream to the Navajo Reservation.

Inspector McLaughlin has lately performed this service, and herewith I hand you his report, dated the 13th instant, and all accompanying papers. After a careful examination of the country, and considering the interests of both the Indian and the white inhabitants thereof, he recommends that the reservation be enlarged by extending the line from the southwest corner of the Moqui Reservation due west to the Little Colorado River; thence down that stream to the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve; thence north on the line of that reserve to the northeast corner thereof; thence west to the Colorado River; thence up that stream to the Navajo Reservation.

The report is respectfully transmitted to you for your consideration. If the recommendations of the inspector meet with your approval you will prepare and submit to the Department, at your earliest convenience, a draft of the proper Executive order to carry the same into effect as to the enlargement of the reservation, and at the proper time submit a draft of the necessary legislation to authorize and enable the Department to purchase the improvements and claims of the settlers to be included in the reservation.

For your information and consideration in connection with the inspector's report, I inclose a copy of the instructions which were given him for the work, and also a letter from Governor Murphy, of Arizona, dated the 17th instant, in reference to the matter.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK, *Secretary.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, July 15, 1899.

SIR: In your communication of June 24, 1899, you state that on the 14th of March last Inspector James McLaughlin was instructed by the Department to proceed to the Navajo Agency for the purpose of making an examination of the country lying west of the Moqui Reservation and reporting to the Department all necessary information, to consider the recommendations which had previously been made by himself and Maj. Constant Williams, the then acting Indian agent of the Navajo Agency, to enlarge the Navajo Reservation by extending the lines from a point on the west line of the Moqui Reservation to the southeast corner of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve, thence north to the northeast corner of said reserve, thence west to the Colorado River, thence up that stream to the Navajo Reservation.